



NEWSLETTER

For The Lee, Lee Common, Hunts Green, Kings Ash and Swan Bottom

From the Editor

By Liz Macann

A more compact version of your newsletter this month. After a summer of outdoor social events and photo opportunities there are plenty of ideas in the following pages to get active nearby, and also to continue the socialising close to home.

It is forecast to be a wet autumn so it looks like wellies to the fore having only just taken them off, but hey, it's good for the gardens – if I hear that once more...!

My personal highlight of last month was thanks to our 'technovicar'! At a granddaughter's recent christening one of the godfathers, who lives abroad, couldn't be present for health reasons so, as a complete surprise to us, Revd Haywood recorded a Zoom session with the godfather reciting the vows, then played it on a big screen in the Church. To all intents and purposes he was with us. So special!

Contributions for the November edition should be sent to the editor, Phil Harrison, by 12th October, at theleenewsletter@gmail.com

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Your letters

To the Editor

It was a real pleasure for the Heath Quartet to record in The Lee Old Church in September. The inspiring setting and supportive acoustics were really inspiring for a worthy project. They recorded a short work inspired by birdsong by Peter McGuffin, who took to music later in life after a distinguished scientific career. He was Emeritus Professor of Psychiatric Genetics at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, Kings College, London.

He sadly passed away before hearing his work, which the Quartet first performed at Bush House in a service celebrating his life's work and being given the Dobzhansky Award for Lifetime Achievement. His family are extremely grateful to have the recording and have made a donation to the church.

Sara Wolstenholme
The Heath Quartet

To the Editor

It is with great sadness that I announce the deaths of two stalwarts of St Mary's. They were delightful gentlemen, both in their nineties and we will miss them. Brian Wilson died on 17th July, closely followed by Tim Clarke who passed away on 23rd July.

You may remember that Brian and Barabara celebrated their platinum

wedding anniversary earlier this year and were pictured sitting on one of St Mary's pews on the Isle of Wight. At our service in November, we will be dedicating the restored porch to the Wilsons (as they funded the existing one) and to Miss Grey (the organist for many years at St M). The Wilsons had originally named it the Grey Porch when it was first built and we would like to honour their wishes. Brian was also a lay minister at St Mary's.

Tim and Posie Clarke have lived in the area for most of their lives, most recently near Pednor and were regular worshippers at St Mary's Ballinger.

Anne Ellis
Ballinger

Social-Lee

Spooki-Lee

By Ana Brown

You will not be surprised to hear that I am once again throwing a Halloween Party at the Cock and Rabbit. Last year was a huge success and I am sure that this year will be too. The date for this year's event is Saturday 26th October from 7:30 pm. Halloween fancy dress is of course essential, we want everyone to get into the 'spirit' of things.

DJ Bonkers will be back keeping us all on the dancefloor once again, the décor will be supplied and arranged from my extensive Halloween decoration collection and I've no doubt Oliver and his team will have a few ghoulish-themed cocktails on the night. Tickets are just £10 per person in advance from Ana Brown by email anabrown921@gmail.com or text 07513 105050. All proceeds this year are going to the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity

Ballinger Centenary

By Chloe Lewis



We continue to mark Ballinger War Memorial Hall's Centenary with events coming up in the autumn.

On Saturday 12th October the hall will revert to the Roaring Twenties where we will host our Great Gatsby Party with dinner and live music from The London Dollz. Tickets at £30 per person at tables for 8 to 10 are now on sale.



The London Dollz

Places are limited due to the capacity of the hall so please do book early by emailing ballingerhall@gmail.com or via the [website](#)

Fireworks!

By Pippa Hart



The Parish Hall Committee looks forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Tuesday 5th November for the annual village Fireworks and Bonfire night. Gates will open at 6:00 pm when hot dogs, mulled wine, beer and wine will be available for sale. Fireworks will start at 7:00 pm.

Due to insurance requirements the bonfire will not be lit until after the fireworks display has finished.

Wherever possible please walk through the playing field from Oxford Street to the field entrance in Cherry Tree Lane. Entrance tickets are available at the gate at £6 per adult, £3 for children under 16, and £15 for a family of four. Please bring cash due to poor wifi signal at the site. There will be no vehicular access to Cherry Tree Lane (other than for residents) so please do not try to park there – this is to ensure that the lane is kept completely clear for emergency vehicles.

Fingers crossed for a lovely clear, dry night.

Roving Supper

By Pat Lea

A reminder that The Roving Supper will be held on 16th November starting in the Parish Hall at 7:30 pm. The programme will be drinks and canapés, followed by dinner at one of the hosts houses, finishing with desserts, drinks and a raffle back at the Hall. Our great need for this event to take place is to have sufficient hosts for the main course. We also require volunteers to provide deserts and raffle prizes.

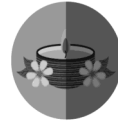
The cost is £30 per head by cash or cheques, payable to The Lee Parish Hall.

Please contact Pat Lea on 01494 837237 for more information.

Newsletter Dinner 2024

By the Editorial Team

The Annual Newsletter Dinner will take place this year on Friday 29th November at The Lee Parish Hall. Invitations are being sent out to those who have contributed to the success of the Newsletter in the past 12 months. With a limited number of spaces



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available in the hall, please reply promptly to your invitation to avoid disappointment.

We start at 7:30 pm with a drinks reception, followed by dinner, and once again will have awards and a speaker to reflect on life in The Lee... or anything else that takes their fancy on the night! Don't miss out on the dinner of the year!

Meet and greet

By Lucy and Paul Kyte

There is never an ideal time to move house, but moving less than a month before Christmas and only days before one of your teenage son's birthdays was when we found ourselves moving into Clump Barn – the new family home for Lucy, Paul, our two boys Patrick and Olly

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(15 and 13 years old) and Digby our very hairy, friendly Bearded Collie.

That was almost 10 months ago and everyone has been so welcoming and friendly... especially to Digby who on first moving in took it upon himself to introduce himself to several members of Princes Lane!

It was actually Digby, as a puppy, who helped us discover the village when we were exploring dog walks in the Chilterns. We were struck by how beautiful the area was and the picturesque village green.

Despite the mud and vegetation Digby brings home with him, walking through the surrounding countryside remains our favourite pastime and we feel so lucky to live in this magical part of the county.

We are both fortunate with our careers to work from home and enjoy the house and its environs every day. Lucy is a Commercial Director with a multinational food and beverages corporation and, after a 16 year career as an Infantry Officer in the army, Paul

now manages programmes within the defence sector. His current work has involved travel to the South Atlantic, but he is looking forward to trips to the Middle East in the near future.



Digby just loves Lee Clump!

Patrick and Olly both attend school locally and are passionate sportsmen. They both play for Hughenden Valley FC, with Olly also playing for a JPL academy team, taking us further afield on Saturdays for matches. He also enjoys cricket, playing for a local team and Bucks West Regional team, whilst Patrick enjoys horse riding, piano and completing his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We have loved experiencing our first year here seeing what flowers and fruits appear in the garden along with some of the wonderful village social events from accidentally driving into the middle of Santa's visit last December, entering the Flower Show and dancing the night away at the fabulous Flower Show Dance.

Looking ahead in the village calendar, we very much look forward to taking part in the Roving Supper in November and to more delicious dinners at the Cock and Rabbit!

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He did it!

By Mike Addison

We have been following Mike's preparations for his big adventure on a very small bike. Here is how he got on...

I'm riding a 125 cc scooter to the Norwegian Arctic Circle and it's 8:00 am on day one of my trip. Having started in sunshine from the port of Hoek van Holland, the weather by the afternoon had given way to dark, ominous clouds and rain. By the early evening the weather had turned even worse; thunderstorms, lightning and hail. "Oh that's perfect," I think to myself. Well not really if you are on such a small scooter with three wheels, buzzing along Dutch and German country roads.

I had just entered into a small village when a German fire officer stops me. "Vorsicht, das Wasser ist zu tief". He gestures with his hands and indicates an approximate depth. I reply "Kein problem für die Yamaha". I carry on, he shrugs his shoulders, the scooter enters the floodwater and the footboards are swamped – bloomin' heck, he wasn't joking! "Keep going Go Go Bike," I mutter to myself. And this seems to have set the storyline regarding weather for the whole trip – one minute brilliant sunshine, the next horizontal rain!

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Three days later, I have made my way up to the port at Hirtshals, Denmark. Now you may think this is slow going but I'm erring on the side of caution. That little engine has to get me to the Arctic Circle and back, so I keep the speed down and thus the engine revs. bumbling along at 40 to 45 mph. It will go faster if pushed but it then starts to resemble a swarm of bees whose nest has been poked!

And so... into Norway

The ferry trip to Kristiansand is uneventful. Having left sunshine in Denmark I'm greeted with pouring rain once more. Here we go again. In Norway at this time of the year they have to repair the roads in readiness for the coming winter months ahead. And so every few miles you are greeted with stop 'n' go traffic lights. In general, the roads are dug up or the top surface removed and then resurfaced to a good spec – very little patch 'n' go to be seen here!



My first stop in Norway is in a place called Vrdal, about 100 miles inland from the port of Kristiansand. For one night I'm treating myself to a luxury hotel. I'm meeting up with a friend of mine. He is attending the Honda Valkyrie Owners Club which is gathered at this hotel for a few days. I cheekily park my dinky 125 next to

the six cylinder, 1500 – 1800 cc giants, causing some discussion amongst the owners. “He’s going where, on that? Must be MAD!” (For the rest of the trip I will be camping and/or using the Norwegian Hytte network of cabins).

The next day is an early departure, the sun is out and all is well. I enter into and travel through the Mælefjell Tunnel, some 5.8 miles long, only to exit and be greeted by pouring rain and low grey skies. Is this stuff following me around?



On the Arctic Circle

Heading up into the mountains (over 4,500ft) the little engine has to work much harder but from what I can see I may as well be riding around Keswick or similar. By the afternoon, the clouds clear and I’m treated to stunning vistas. Time to get the camera out. It takes ages to make progress, I simply have to keep stopping and take pictures.

Finally, I am forced to take the E6 road from Otta and start the long ride

up to Trondheim, followed by a right turn at Mo i Rana but still on the same road. The alternatives are basically gravel roads and tracks, something the little Yamaha was not made for – nor me might I add!

And so, after 10 days of travel the GPS coordinates finally come together, 66° 33’, the Arctic Circle. We made it – yay. I visit the (overpriced) gifty shoppe, take some pictures and then head back home. Mission accomplished!

My Go Go Bike is a Yamaha Tricity 125 single cylinder, water cooled 4 stroke, fuel injected. Fully loaded it typically returns 80 to 90 MPG at 40 to 50 mph. Total distance: 3,290 miles.

From some brief research, I am the first person to ride this model from the UK to the Norwegian Arctic Circle... and back.



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Volunteer as a 'Befriender'

A number of our local articles have made a plea for volunteers to help with village projects but here we have an opportunity to help in a wider way...

By Bucks Mind

Mind is a well-regarded mental health charity and the Bucks branch uses 'Befrienders' to support people who are lonely or isolated as a result of mental ill-health.

We currently have opportunities for people to give as little as an hour a week for six months, providing company, a listening ear, perhaps going for a walk, doing an activity or meeting someone at home or chatting on the phone.



So many people are lonely, isolated, anxious and feeling low but knowing someone is there for them can make all the difference.

We are keen to recruit:

- people who have a passion for helping others
- people with an understanding of mental health, who know we can all be affected by low mood
- people with an interest in supporting others to have positive experiences when it comes to meeting other people and forming relationships
- people who can just listen and be there for someone.



Could this be you? Training and support will be given,

We'd love to hear from you. Please call us on 01494 463364 for more information or visit our website www.bucksmind.org.uk

Thames Valley Air Ambulance

By Chris Bannister

CPR Awareness sessions

As some readers may know, I took over the Chair of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance (TVAA) earlier this year. I feel enormously proud and privileged to have done so. I have found that awareness of TVAA is high in the village but for those who are not familiar with TVAA, we are an independent charity bringing the expertise, equipment and treatment of the hospital to the most critically ill and injured patients across Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

In 2023 our crews attended 3,293 call outs, and of these 1,212 were to cardiac arrests. Currently, nearly a third (32%) of cardiac arrest patients attended by our crews had not received bystander CPR and a public access defibrillator is used in fewer than one in ten (8%) cardiac arrest call outs. With 60 per cent of the out-of-hospital cardiac arrests we attend happening in the home and over a quarter (28%) in a public place, we are urging people to become familiar with what to do if they witness a cardiac arrest.



We know that confidence is a big barrier – based on a survey we put out last year, we found that almost a third of people in our community would not feel confident giving CPR if they witnessed a cardiac arrest, despite 57 per cent receiving some form of CPR training in the past.

Our CPR Awareness sessions aim to bridge this confidence gap across our communities and offer the chance for attendees to learn and practice skills should they find themselves in this situation. These sessions are designed to be interactive and those attending will benefit most from being actively engaged, including practising CPR on manikins on the floor. The sessions also incorporate the use of a public access defibrillator.

Please note these sessions are to build awareness, they are NOT certified training. Participants will receive a certificate of attendance and signposting to further training they may like to take up externally.

At this stage, we are gauging interest. Assuming a healthy level of interest in learning these precious skills, we will run morning sessions through the autumn at the Cock and Rabbit and will arrange people into small groups accordingly.

If you are interested in attending please register your interest directly with me, Chris Bannister, via email chris.bannister@tvairambulance.org.uk or via telephone/text 07787242449.

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The Lee Church news

By the Editorial Team

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St John the Baptist Church, The Lee, held an Extraordinary Meeting of parishioners on Monday 16th September.

This followed on from a meeting during the summer at St Leonards Church, at which parishioners there passed a vote of no confidence in Revd Chris Haywood, and concerns were also expressed at Cholesbury Church.

Over 90 local residents attended The Lee meeting. Many spoke passionately about the support they received from Revd Chris Haywood, his engagement with his congregation 'from birth to death', his approachability, his involvement with the wider community, and his willingness so often to go the extra mile – especially when residents were going through difficult times.

Although some matters of concern were raised – with many calling for the Diocese to provide better support to the vicar – a vote of those attending (and those unable to attend but who had written in or emailed the PCC) clearly showed widespread local support and confidence in the vicar.

Associate Archdeacon, Chris Bull, also attended the meeting and during the evening explained that the two 'benefices' of The Lee and the Hilltop Villages were currently linked under the vicar's leadership.

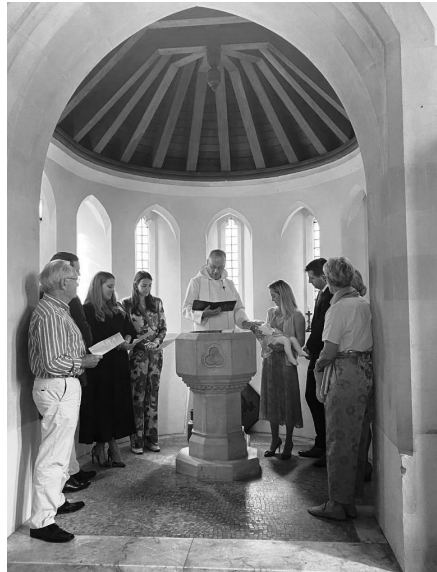
It is understood that the Bishop, the Diocese, the PCCs and the vicar will now review all these issues and consider what appropriate action might now be taken.

Watch this space...

St John the Baptist, The Lee

By Revd Chris Haywood

We were delighted to host the Baptism of Olivia, daughter of Maximillian and Laura in church on Sunday 8th September. Laura is of Macann lineage with close connections with The Lee, even though Max and Laura live in Luxembourg. It was a joyous occasion. We were honoured to be able to welcome Olivia into the church and support the Parents and Godparents as they start their journey alongside Olivia as spiritual mentors in the Christian faith.



We will have celebrated The Lee's Harvest Festival celebration by the time you read this and hosted a cheese and wine supper in the Vicarage afterwards. It's a festival service and occasion we

look forward to and trust it was a significant one again this year for the rural community that we are.

The Family Service Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 6th October at 11:00 am at Small Dean Farm, by kind invitation of Mary Clow. We'll provide directions on how to get there. Just let me know if you wish to join us and I'll let you have details. Our celebration will take the usual form of crafts and activities (on a harvest theme) followed by interactive worship. On this occasion we'll also share a simple jacket potato lunch. Please do bring a favourite topping!

Without commenting on the issue which prompted such wonderful and empathetic support from The Lee community for us, I just wanted to express my gratitude and thanks to all of you who have been so amazingly supportive of Georgie and I and have spoken up for us and our ministry for you, amongst you and with you... It means so much and is very humbling to read such kind and thoughtful words of backing and hear such voices of encouragement. It is my sincere hope that a constructive way forward will have been found by Bishop Steven and Archdeacon Guy at a meeting.

Next on the agenda is Remembrance Sunday on 10th November. Our Remembrance Service in the New Church will be at 10:00 am and the act of remembrance around the War Memorial. Wreath tributes are warmly invited to be laid. In readiness for Remembrance Sunday we shall be having an Autumnal Graveyard Clear up on Saturday 2nd November from 9:00 am. Do come along and help us get the graveyard ready for winter and, weather permitting, share in a BBQ lunch afterwards.

With humble gratitude and thanks.

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Our emerging community hub

By Robyn Cann and the C&R Team

It was Charlotte Brontë who said, “I try to avoid looking forward or backward and try to keep looking upward”. And that about sums up the past few months at The Cock and Rabbit during which we were forever looking upward to see whether the clouds were in a temper or there was hope of sunshine.

Some days it felt summer had arrived; the sounds of live jazz floated dreamily over a beer garden full of roses and merry drinkers, and staff couldn't clear tables of empty glasses quickly enough. On other days the heavens suddenly opened and we dashed to bring the outdoor seat

cushions inside. Of course, when the weather is fine the beer garden beckons and people seem to emerge from nowhere, so trying to adapt the staff rota to the fickle whims of the weather gods became an art form.



Chef Andre demonstrating his spin on the C&R's new table tennis table.

The up-and-down summer of 2024 just reminds us that we can't completely rely on the extraordinary garden that we are blessed with at The Cock and Rabbit to keep people coming. As the days get shorter and the leaves start to fall, we'll have to get better at shouting about our cosy lounge bar and log fires, cakes and brilliant chefs. Of course this requires folk to battle the innate, autumnal urge to go into hibernation mode, but... Lobster Night on 17th October, that's a good reason to venture out and be social! As is the ever-popular monthly quiz.

Regular live music is planned to continue, including a couple of new offerings in the coming weeks, and the Christmas Party menu is out for anyone who is organised enough to be looking as far ahead as December. If September's Tapas Night and October's Lobster Night are deemed successful the chefs will keep offering special themed menus, so keep an eye out for those events, and just a reminder to





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Organic activity

Whilst we put on events that we always hope will be well-received, it's lovely to see the ways that people have independently and organically come to use the space at The Cock and Rabbit. The Halloween Party organised by Ana Brown – this year to be held on Saturday 26th October – is one example. Upcoming Thames Valley Air Ambulance CPR awareness sessions for the local community are another. On Thursday 3rd October Lee Common School is having a parent social... teen babysitters at the ready.

Meanwhile, lycra has become such an increasingly common sight in the coffee shop that Oliver is considering installing a rail to hang bicycles, and we welcome a loyal and lovely dog walking set most days. There are the Midsomer Murder tourists and Village Friends (the women's group formerly known as Ballinger WI) and we often soak up the overspill from Kwik



'Repurposing' the cock and rabbit motifs

Cricket on a Friday night. In December we'll celebrate two years since renovation and reopening but, as Oliver says, to watch the place evolve into a community hub evokes a joy and gratitude that's hard to fully express.

Looking forward with a nod to the past – completely against the ways of Charlotte Brontë – the circular cock and rabbit motifs from the old iron gates are being repurposed and, if all goes to plan, you'll soon spot them on new railings for the steps that lead down to the garden.

Plans for a refresh of the former restaurant are also underway and, with slightly more than a lick of paint and a sprinkling of luck, the space will be open for bookings once again... at which point we'll be able to drop the slightly ambiguous 'bistro' from our offering and finally be, 'The Cock and Rabbit: Pub, Cafe, Restaurant'.

Pippa Hart Photography



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St Mary's, Ballinger

By Anne Ellis

Great news, Carl Stevens has started work on repairing and overhauling the church porch. Thank goodness he did as he found that the existing cedar tiles broke asunder in his hands when he stripped them off and that the felt underneath was like dust. The chipboard was rotten too, so all in all he has been the answer to our prayers. The roof is now watertight although the battens and new tiles have yet to be installed. The boardings have been replaced with sturdier ones and the guttering extended to catch the rain coming off the roof where it adjoins the main building. The inside will be stripped of the anaglypta wallpaper, re-boarded, plastered and then painted to match the inside of the church. We hope to have the external cladding restrained too and the two outside lights restored.

May we make a plea for some volunteers though, as the shed at the back of the vestry needs restraining too before winter? We can provide the stain, brushes etc not to mention refreshments, but would welcome a few extra hands. Can you help?

We've also cleared the side of weeds, dug it out, put down matting and

topped it all with gravel. This has cleared debris away from the wall and the airbricks and looks much neater. The front hedges have been cut AGAIN but the rest are waiting their turn.

Finally, Carl is also going to fix the leaking gutter along the side by the redundant chimney breast.

Prepared-Lee

By Enzo D'Alessandro

The new Scouts year started with the appointment



of the new UK Chief Scout: Dwayne Fields succeeded Bear Grylls (who was the Chief Scout for 15 years!). What better way to make a new start – and what an inspired choice. I am sure you will have seen the news and by now know everything there is to know about Dwayne; what I find inspiring is his background, and what Scouting has done for him. Scouting is typically associated with nature and good deeds, but the values intrinsic in the movement apply to any social context.

I have mentioned in past articles the impact that Scouting can have on inner-city children – there is a transformative power in someone simply believing in you, caring about your own development, actively enabling you to explore personal qualities you weren't aware you had, especially when this someone is doing it because they want to, not because it is their job to do so.

Dwayne's experience challenges us all: what can I do to effect positive change? It doesn't take much; find a way to help, and go for it.

Closer to home, we have a busy year ahead of us! About that – I have a favour to ask the community... I am



planning to run a village-wide game sometime during the year and I'd be grateful for volunteers. It won't take much of your time, and you can do it from your home. If you'd be prepared to help, please send me a message (email scouts@1stleecommon.co.uk).

Bridge too far!

By Judy Hart et al

It is always more fun if both pairs are able to bid. In this game North was able to open 2♥, but who bid next and what was the final contract?

♠ J 10 9 6 3

♥ K 10 9 7 5 2

♦ J 8

♣ -

♠ K 8

♥ A Q

♦ K Q 9 7 4 3

♣ K 7 6

♠ Q 7 2

♥ J 6

♦ A 6 5 2

♣ A J 5 4

♠ A 5 4

♥ 8 4 3

♦ 10

♣ Q 10 9 8 3 2

Dealer: North
Vulnerability: None

N	E	S	W
2♥	?	?	?

See page 19.

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Postcard from the past

By Carol Addison



Here is a familiar scene of Old Amersham Market Square, dominated by the Market Hall built in 1682 by Sir William Drake.

On the left is the 400 year old coaching inn, The Crown, with its original portico.

The card is unposted but on the back is written the date of printing: 16th March 1924.

This image ties in with a 1924 silent film restored by the British Film Institute. The nine minute film shows footage of Latimer, Coleshill and Amersham, including The Crown where the Old Berkeley Coach changed horses. Marvellous!

The film can be viewed for free at player.bfi.org.uk At the BFI site, search for *In Milton's Country*.

[BFI player offers a free trial, then a monthly or annual subscription. Ed.]

Bucks Council

By Cllr Patricia Birchley

As a member of the Chilterns Conservation Board and the East Bucks Planning Committee I am very interested in the Government's proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and its implications for the Chilterns AONB. These changes will have the effect of massively changing the rural and semi-rural nature of Buckinghamshire for ever!

Mandatory housing targets for the county will increase from 61,152 to 86,562 by 2045, an increase of 42%. As Buckinghamshire is forced to take more housing, places such as London, Luton and Slough will see their allocation decrease. The reintroduction of 'Duty to Cooperate' means we should have to accept any over-spill



these areas fail to deliver. Also unwelcome is the requirement for a 'five year land supply' which potentially enables developers from 2025 to submit hostile applications in conflict with existing approved Local Plans in Bucks.

The concept of 'Grey Belt' is a new way of enabling the release of existing Green Belt and is vaguely defined as land that makes a 'limited contribution to Green Belt objectives'. In addition there is likely to be a new town of at least 10,000 houses in the county. Buckinghamshire Council believes that these changes have a political agenda, that the scale of the increase is a 'Developer's Charter' and will lead to a large volume of applications for houses, data centres, battery storage units etc. As your local councillors, Jane MacBean and I will be working diligently to protect our local residents and speaking out against these proposals.

[See also Parish Council report on planning on page 24. Ed.]

Over the last week I have drawn up another list of roads needing repairs and have asked Wayne Fabian, the Local Area Technician, to meet me and visit these sites quickly. Closure of roads by HS2 such as Rocky Lane for six months next year change the dynamics of our journeys and mean the Council must be prepared.

I would ask you to get in touch if I can resolve your questions with officers at County Hall.

Patricia.Birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
07714 704017

Near-Lee

Go for a Padel

By Peter Macann



It's fast, it's fun, it has you whirling on your feet making split second decisions... and it is sweeping the country in popularity.

Padel Tennis began in Mexico and then spread like wildfire to Spain. Now at last the Brits are waking up to a great way to keep fit in a highly enjoyable way – which, let's face it, is rare!

Played as doubles on a smaller-than-tennis court with surrounding



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solid walls (usually glass), it is a mixture of tennis and squash where you are able to use the walls to bounce the ball off. The ball is a bouncier tennis ball, the 'bat' is like a giant table-tennis bat with mysterious holes drilled through it – I have no idea what they contribute. The court surface is a matting – like artificial clay.

Certainly the clincher for the novice is that anyone can be pretty good on their first attempt. Imagine the novice facing a powerful tennis serve in their first game. It would be disaster. But here, the service is underarm... and while the smashes can be hard and fast, it is more about cunning placement.

The good news is that there are four courts open to all Near Lee. Two at Chesham 1879 Tennis and Squash Club (60 mins at £24 per court) and two at Great Missenden Lawn Tennis Club (60 mins at £30 per court) and you don't have to be members! At Great Missenden they even provide the bats and balls. So, if someone who knows the game invites you to play, just reply with the score "Love-Two." You won't regret it.

The Lee in living memory

This month, we have taken another dive into 'The Lee in Living Memory – Voices from a special Chiltern parish', copies of which remain available at Shop at The Lee. We have an extract from Eileen Butowski's memories; she was born in The Lee 100 years ago.

Eileen Butowski (nee Harding 1924 – 2008)

Eileen was born in 1924 at Ebor Cottage near The Old Swan pub. She recalls her childhood:



“Lots of people call it Swan Bottom, but it is actually Kingswood. That made people very cross and they said, ‘I don’t live round its bottom, I live round its neck.’ My parents were Frederick and Thirza Frances Harding. The shop next door, run by the Stones, sold all kinds of groceries and we bought our sweets there. It was an idyllic childhood.

“Mark Picton and his family were at the pub. They had three children: Rachel, Jane and another one. There were two children at the shop – Bill was killed. Joan Adams lived at the top of Cornerwood Lane; Furzefield Lane they called it then.

“I walked a mile to school at Lee Common. We had to take our lunch, but later on Mrs Ayres the cook who lived near the school used to make a great big can of soup. We had a happy time at school, though I suppose I

could have worked harder. I started at the age of five and left at 14.

“I went to the Emmanuel Hall chapel at Swan Bottom, which was more or less a free church. My family was Methodist. My great grandmother had had a Methodist chapel built in Berkshire with money she had collected. We went to chapel every Sunday and my mum did the tea there for years. I went to Sunday school in the morning and afternoon, and stayed on for the afternoon service.



Jubilee (Liberty) mugs

“I remember queuing for the Jubilee mug from the Libertys. I’ve broken it. We had a coronation mug as well (see above).

“My mother was born in 1894 and was 19 when she came to work for Canon Phipps at the Vicarage. Aunty Flo came to Aylesbury and worked for Joan Crouch, Evelyn Stewart-Liberty’s sister who organised the evacuees. My mother said she wanted only one, because we only had one single bed to spare, but Mrs Crouch persuaded her to take two sisters from London. One little thing was only four. They were clean though. We got them kitted out with clothes by altering coats and things.

“I was 15 and had left school when war broke out, and I was

working for the Barrows. I can still hear the announcement, “We are at war with Germany.”

“It’s funny how things stick in your mind for so long.

The first to volunteer and the last to come home

“Just before the war there were two new houses built up Corner Wood Lane on land owned by Mrs Stone who ran the shop.

“At the Swan Bottom crossroads were Mr Austin and Bess Austin. He was a cobbler and blacksmith. Kate Chilton lived above them at the top and at the top on the left there was Queenie.

“My father was in the Guards in the First World War. He said that he was the first to volunteer... and the last to come home.”



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'ologists rant!



By Joe King

“Have you noticed that 'ologists are taking over the world?” A strange way to start a conversation you may think, but the visitor to the snug insisted on developing his argument.

He started with the archaeologists who have been digging up a part of Grims Ditch at Hunts Green on behalf of HS2. It wasn't the fact that they were digging things up that had upset him, but the fact that the process of deciding where and how to dig, and what HS2 should do about it, have added months (maybe years) of delay and tens (maybe hundreds) of thousands of pounds of costs to the project.

“And don't talk to me about ecologists” the visitor continued, claiming they were also adding huge delays and costs, not only to HS2 but also to much smaller local building projects. “Take bats”, he said, “I've got nothing against them per se, but if someone wants to build an extension and Pippa or Barbara Strelle haven't got the nous to find another home on their own, then are they really that worth protecting?”

Then it was the turn of meteorologists. “I used to think it was their job to forecast the weather; now they just tell you: *'The models are telling us different things for Thursday onwards; if we believe this model then Thursday looks dry and sunny; but other models are forecasting heavy rain.'* What use is that to me when I've want to lay concrete on Thursday?”

The visitor wanted to continue with urologists... but by now we were beginning to think he might just be taking the p**s!

Christmas shopping

By Katie Michealson Yates



Next month we will all begin preparing for Christmas. Shop at The Lee will be holding their annual Christmas Food and Gift Market next door in the Parish Hall. The date for your diary is Saturday 9th November, opening at 8:30 am and closing at 1:00 pm.

If you are new to the villages this event is the place to pick up lots of goodies including many favourites – panettone, stollen, Christmas cakes, puds and mince pies, chocolates, liqueur bottled fruit, chutneys, crackers, gingerbread houses, baklava, children's chocs and so much more, such as Christmas ales and spirit gift packs. Everything essential for present



wrapping, charity greetings cards, advent calendars and Christmas crackers and napkins can be found, plus 'pop and slot' festive scenes, playing cards and pretty stationery. There are stocking filler gifts and beautiful decorations and plants; we are always adding to the list.

We hope to see you there.

Bridge too far!

At our table E/W had the most HCPs and should have been looking for a game contract. Despite North's weak opening, East didn't feel able to double at the 3 level, so left it to West to bid 3♦ as the longest suit. East had no problem supporting and inviting to game, and West was able to bid on to 5♦, which made.

N	E	S	W
2♥	pass	pass	3♦
pass	4♦	pass	5♦
pass	pass	pass	

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HS2 updates

By Cllr Colin Sully

The recent BBC Panorama programme *HS2: End Of The Line* summarised how the project has reached, in the words of the new Secretary of State (S of S) for Transport “A dire situation.”

The programme placed a lot of emphasis on land acquisition and generally suggested fraud, corruption and misleading Parliament. It also contained interviews with local ‘celebrity’ farmers (the Bunce family).

Perhaps the only thing the programme was light on is the fact that most of the escalating costs have not come from land acquisition but from increased construction costs caused by a failure to really understand (or reveal?) the escalating costs of construction. The

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rail construction industry – from whence cometh and returneth most of the senior managers in HS2 Ltd – has never been keen to say “We got the costs seriously wrong.”

With stringent budget control now likely for all Government Departments, the S of S for Transport is faced with three crucial decisions:

1. What to do about Euston (the approved plans are currently only to run to / from Old Oak Common)?
2. What to do about the need for increased rail capacity on the line north of Birmingham?
3. How do you fit 90 miles of ‘High Speed’ into the rest of the network?

For those who missed the broadcast, and want to view it, it is available on BBC iPlayer: search for *HS2: End Of The Line?*

While the S of S ponders all this, detail is emerging of more plans which will affect local communities.

1. Local road closures

In September, the Parish Council was advised of plans for a six-month 24/7 road closure affecting Rocky Lane, in early 2025. The Lee and Great Missenden Parish Councils have raised concerns about these plans, both in terms of their impact on the local communities and the fact that they are outwith our understanding of what is supposed to be happening.

HS2 Ltd and their contractors are arguing that they have carried out an assessment of the alternatives (there are none) and of the additional local impacts, and that they are satisfied that their proposals are soundly based.



Whilst discussions with Bucks Council continue as to how to mitigate the impact of these closures, at the time of going to press, it looks like 2025 will bring:

January to July: 24/7 closure of Rocky Lane to construct the bridge.

Late January: 24 hr closure of the A413 during the viaduct 'push' over the A413 and the Chiltern railway.

2. Leather Lane crossing

Revised draft plans for the Leather Lane crossing were also shown to local councils in September. These may also include extensive closures.

More on this next month...

3. Grim's Ditch

The archaeology work at Grim's Ditch (Hunts Green) was finally completed in September.

This local section of Grim's Ditch is a Scheduled Monument and detailed archaeological investigations needed to be undertaken in collaboration with Buckinghamshire Council and Historic England. Works first began in the area in 2020 with over 150 trial 'evaluation trenches' being dug. These early works identified a continuation of Grim's Ditch that was previously unknown and led to further investigations and detailed design

work to protect as much of the monument as was reasonable.

EKFB can now begin constructing the protection needed for the sections of Grim's Ditch to be left undisturbed by the railway, before moving on to finally excavate the railway cutting through the area.

4. Tree planting

We await further discussion of tree planting in the field at the junction of Bowood Lane and Kings Lane and other tree-planting in the AONB area.

An on-site meeting with senior project managers is being scheduled for October.

For the latest updates on works in the local area visit www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map/

Residents are encouraged to complain direct to HS2 if they are affected by local plans: telephone 08081 434434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk



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The Lee Parish Council news

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk, The Lee Parish Council

Local planning news

Two recent planning applications were made to increase the housing stock in The Lee parish which would also have a wider community impact. Below is an update on the current situation on these applications.

Cherry Tree Lane

An application for 'Permission in Principle' to build up to six new homes in a field off **Cherry Tree Lane** has been taken by the applicant direct to appeal, after many objections were lodged and Bucks Council 'failed to determine' the application within the specified period.

The appeal will be determined on the basis of written representations. All representations made to Bucks Council will be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate.



Methodist Church

An application for 'Permission in Principle' for a change of use to residential for the **Methodist Church**

on **Oxford Street** was refused by Bucks Council on the grounds that the applicant had failed to demonstrate that there was no prospect of future community use and failed to submit any ecological reviews.

News of this application (and a similar one at Winchmore Hill) made the Daily Mail and the Mail Online <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13795919/Vicar-council-Buckinghamshire-churches.html>

The Chairman of The Lee Parish Council was quoted as saying "We are not necessarily against the idea of conversion to residential use, but this application has not answered the questions that needed answering. The Parish Council therefore objected."

The applicant is free to re-apply when they have addressed these issues.

National planning policy

Local parish councillors attended a briefing in September by Bucks Council on the Government's consultation on its proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The proposed changes could affect The Lee in a number of ways:

- The housing targets set for Bucks Council could increase significantly; the council is already under difficulty releasing enough land to fulfil its current housing targets.
- In this situation, there would be more pressure on the council to release Green Belt land for housing and in particular to identify 'Grey Belt' (see September Newsletter).
- If the council was able to meet its housing target, there would be further pressure on local services



and infrastructure. It is not at all clear where funding for such developments would come.

TLPC has responded to the consultation expressing these and other concerns. We await the outcome.

Planning applications

The Parish Council continues to post planning application notices within the parish onto The Lee Forum as we process them, with a reminder to residents that if they have specific comments to make, they should respond directly to the planning authority.

The Parish Council is also very happy to hear residents' views on applications in confidence as they help us to formulate a representative response. Please let us know your opinions via the Clerk at 07704 909324 or by email at clerk@thelee.org.uk

The Parish Council does not normally contact or consult with applicants, as the council needs to assume that all the relevant facts and information related to the proposed development are included in the planning application.

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Password protection

By Ruth Fowler

Back in the day – scarily probably four decades ago – the concept of passwords for online and other access started to creep in. The rules at the time were fairly simple: minimum of six characters, don't use your name and don't use "password" or something similar, as these might easily be guessed by someone who knows you or a bit about you.



As time progressed these rules were considered to be insufficient. Many of us had varying amounts of personal information available online, such as the names and associated dates of birth of partners, children and pets, so these too became things to avoid in passwords; anyone could do a little research and make an educated guess at your password. Even if you don't subscribe to social media, is your name and address in the phone book, on the public electoral roll or available via 192.com? If the answer to any of these is 'yes', then a scammer could trawl for information and try to guess your password. Even things like your mother's maiden name aren't as secure

as previously, thanks to new technology like ancestry and DNA analysis sites.

The accepted wisdom about password security developed, and the advice became to choose a password of at least 12 characters containing a meaningful quote from a movie or speech, a lyric from a song or poem, a series of words that are meaningful to you or the first letter of words in a sentence. It's unlikely that a person or even some software trawling for information about you would be able to guess at the password – particularly if you intersperse the letters with some numbers or symbols.

Technology however, both software and hardware, continues to evolve at a staggering rate, and the threat to your account being hacked no longer relies solely on someone or something being able to guess your password based on information about you. Instead rogue bots (software) will try the sledgehammer approach, and go through every possible combination of values for each of the characters in your password in turn.

What is entropy?

However, it is possible to come up with passwords to protect you against this, by increasing the bits of entropy – entropy being a measure of randomness or uncertainty, in this case of a password.

The concept isn't as complicated as it first seems, and is best explained by example.

If your password only has upper case letters, then there are 26 possibilities for the first character. If your password also contains lower case letters, then the first character has 52 possibilities (A-Z and a-z). Add in a number, and the first character of the password now has 62 possibilities

with the inclusion of 0-9. Include one of the 32 special characters such as \$ or £ in your password and the total number of possibilities for the first character increases to 94. This means that any bot trying to guess your password needs to try 94 possibilities for the first character, followed by another 94 possibilities for the second etc (a total of 94^2 for a two character password). As you can see, by the time you get up to a 12 character password, there are 94^{12} combinations, which for those like me not sufficiently adept at mental arithmetic is approximately 475,920,314,814,253 billion. Extend this to a recommended password length of 20 characters and the number of possible combinations is mind-boggling! More importantly, the technology doesn't yet exist to be able to make that many attempts to crack a password.



With this increased knowledge, perhaps next time you see yet another rule which says you have to have a password of increasing length containing special characters, numbers, upper and lower case letters,



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you will have a better understanding of the reasoning behind it. Essentially, the longer the password and the more different types of characters, the lower the chance of it being cracked.

Simplest protection

All too often there are horror stories in the press of major organisations being hacked and passwords stolen. To keep yourself safe online, it's essential not to reuse passwords – if a scammer buys a list of hacked passwords, it's only too easy for them to try and use a password associated with an email address elsewhere – and if the password is the same, bingo!

Scammers will still try to guess your password based on information they can glean about you, so don't use passwords with names, places or dates that could easily be tied to you.

Now the tricky bit

Going back to protecting yourself against the sledgehammer leads on to trying to quantify the bits of entropy of a particular password, for which there is a mathematical formula of:

$$E = L \times \log_2(R)$$

where:

E is your password entropy

R is the possible range of character types in your password (94 if you have upper and lower case letters, numbers and special characters)

L is the number of characters in your password (its length)

\log_2 answers the question “to what power 2 must be raised to equal this number”

Having calculated the bits of entropy, if the answer is:

- less than 75, the password is too weak and could be cracked
- 75-78 is just about OK



- 78-100 is difficult but not impossible to crack
- over 100 is a good strong password that would take time for even the faster computer to crack
- over 128 is virtually impregnable

I've built a little Excel spreadsheet which will calculate the bits of entropy for any password you enter, email me at ruth.fowler7@gmail.com if you'd like a copy.

For further information, take a look at <https://proton.me/blog/what-is-password-entropy> which gives a more detailed explanation along with examples.

Now I'm off to check my passwords...

2021 Census: The Lee

By Colin Sully

It has taken some time to discover all the detail from the 2021 Census of the residents of The Lee parish (the full analysis and reporting of which takes years). However, we can now report that the population of The Lee parish in 2021 was (fanfare) “around 693 persons”. I say “around” deliberately because these are in fact estimates rather than a “true count” of how many people were living here on the appointed date.

Of interest is how these estimates have changed over the decades:

Year	Households	Population
2021	290	693
2011	299	698
2001	265	679
1911*	188	775

* after enlargement

So, the population has been relatively unchanging over the past 10 to 20 years, but very different from 100 years ago. With changes in planning legislation looming, it will be interesting to see what the 2031 census ends up looking like.



Further detail is also now available from the 2021 census on...

Gender split

Female 50.3% Male 49.7%
Nothing startling there.

Population Age	The Lee	Eng & Wales
15 years and under	16.6%	17.5%
16 to 64 years	56.4%	59.8%
65 years and over	27.0%	22.5%

Again, perhaps nothing unexpected.

The 290 households were, also apparently recorded as:

One-person	60
Single family	218
Multiple family	12

Even more detail is available at www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021

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Dear Diary

The fastest way to let everyone in the parish know about an event you are arranging is to publish it right here in the Newsletter. Contact the Editor by the 12th of the previous month (see contact details on page 1).

October

Thursday 3rd. The Lee village walk. 9:30 am at The Lee Green.

Friday 4th to Sunday 13th. Little Missenden Music Festival.

Sunday 6th. Classical musical comedy at The Lee Old Church.

Saturday 12th. Great Gatsby Night at Ballinger Memorial Hall. See page 2.

Tuesday 22nd. Village Friends. 10:30 am at the Cock and Rabbit.

Saturday 26th. Halloween party in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice. Cock and Rabbit. See page 2.

Thursday 31st. Arts Society Ballinger. 'Cinema from the rubble: the post-war politics of Ealing Studios.' Benedict Morrison.

Church Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee
Sunday 6th. Holy Communion (BCP) at The Old Church. 8:00 am.

Sunday 6th. Family Service with Harvest Festival. The Barn, Small Dean Farm.

Sunday 13th. Parish Communion (CW) at the New Church. 11:00 am.

Sunday 20th. Holy Communion (BCP) at the Old Church. 8:00 am.

Sunday 27th. Parish Communion (CW) at the New Church. 11:00 am.

St Mary's, Ballinger

Saturday 5th. Harvest supper St Mary's, Ballinger.

Sunday 6th. Harvest Communion. 9:30 am followed by refreshments.

Coming Soon

Saturday 2nd November. Churchyard clean up from 9:00 am. See page 11.

Sunday 3rd November. Chalkstreams and the River Chess Association. 7:30 pm at The Lee Old Church.

Tuesday 5th November. Village Firework Display. 7:00 pm, gates open from 6:00 pm for refreshments.

Thursday 7th November. The Lee village walk. 9:30 am at The Lee Green.

Saturday 9th November. Shop at the Lee Christmas Event. 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Sunday 10th November. Remembrance Day at St John the Baptist Church and on The Lee Green.

Tuesday 12th November. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Saturday 16th November. Ballinger Hall Christmas Fair. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Stalls, seasonal refreshments, raffle.

Saturday 16th November. The Lee Roving Supper. 7:30 pm. See page 3.

Wednesday 20th November. Bridge afternoon at St Mary's, Ballinger.

Tuesday 26th November. Village Friends. 10:30 am at the Cock and Rabbit.

Friday 29th November. The Lee Newsletter Dinner. 7:30 pm at The Lee Parish Hall. See page 3.

Thursday 12th Santa's visit to Lee Common and The Lee. Oxford St at 5:30 pm and The Lee Green at 6:00 pm.

Directory of local contacts

Ballinger Babies and Toddlers Group

Sophie Underwood, 07970 022190

Ballinger Hall Horticultural Society

Chairperson: Katharine Hersee

07801 948650, kjhersee@gmail.com

Membership Secretary:

jennywooding@btconnect.com

Ballinger War Memorial Hall

Bookings: Jane Ogden, 837379

Lee Common C of E School

School office, 837267

office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk

Lee Common Scouts**Group Scout Leader**, Chris Nevill;

864881, gsl@1stleecommon.co.uk

Scouts, Enzo D'Alessandro;

scouts@1stleecommon.co.uk

Beavers, Karen Bruton;

beavers@1stleecommon.co.uk

Cubs, James Bruton;

cubs@1stleecommon.co.uk

Shop at The Lee

Symeon Economou, 837195

shop@thelee.org.uk

St John the Baptist Church, The Lee

Vicar: Revd Chris Haywood, 837566

Churchwarden: Trevor Pearce, 837601

Treasurer: David Stephenson, 867617

St Mary's Church, Ballinger

Associate Wardens: Anne Ellis,

837247 and Maggi Cameron, 864790

or maggi.cameron@hotmail.co.uk

Tennis Court @ Parish Hall

Bookings: Pippa Hart 07785 323232

(ideally WhatsApp)

The Arts Society Ballinger

Contact: Susanne Baker, 864893

ballinger@theartssociety.org

The Lee Cricket Club

www.theleecc.org.uk:

Secretary: Mike Harris 07788 345555

The Lee Flower Show

Chairman: Jonathan Batten, 837450

The Lee Newsletter

theleenewsletter@gmail.com

The Lee Old Church Trust

Secretary: Pam Garner 837501

The Lee Parish Council

Clerk: Hayley Farrelly, 07704 909324

clerk@thelee.org.uk

www.thelee.org.uk/pc

The Lee Parish Hall Committee

Bookings: Pippa Hart, 837340

Chairman: Tony Lea, 837237

The Newsletter

The Lee Newsletter is published 10 times a year and distributed free to all households in the parish... and a little beyond. The views expressed in it are not necessarily those of the Editor.

We welcome letters and articles of interest and relevance to The Lee. Copy should be sent to the Editor of the month (see page 1) by the 12th of the month before publication.

Letters should ideally run to no more than 200 words and articles to no more than 700 words; material may be edited and may appear on the village website www.thelee.org.uk unless consent is specifically withheld. Anonymous contributions are not accepted.

To advertise in the newsletter or place an insert, please contact Hannah Lane at hannahcmlane@gmail.com or on 07747 114640, by the 12th of the previous month.

If you have photographs for publication please contact Jonathan Batten on 837450 or email battenjonathan@hotmail.com

For queries regarding distribution contact Phil Harrison on 837469.

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The **wye** Partnership



It's our business so we care.

The Wye Partnership gained their knowledge and developed their expertise within the most successful estate agents in High Wycombe. On witnessing the take over of these long established companies by nationwide chains we recognised the need for the retention of a local and independent service. Our recent merger makes the enlarged Partnership the strongest Independent in South Bucks and The Chilterns!

All the partners have invested their own money into the Wye Residential Partnership and all truly believe that our business will be built on delivering excellent service to our clients. This means you can be confident that we will deliver on all aspects of Estate Agency in an honest, open and transparent way.

If you are looking to buy, sell or let in High Wycombe or the surrounding Chiltern villages then contact an estate agency that is motivated by your success and talk to The Wye Partnership.

wyeres.co.uk

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